

General Assembly approved, for the fiscal year beginning next July 1, the community college appropriation amounts to \$4,032,600. Thus, in the period about which we are talking—from 1961 to the present—the increase in the amount the State earmarks for assistance to the community college is 834 per cent. In 1961, the State was contributing as its share of the cost of operating the colleges \$150 per pupil. That share has been double since that time to \$300 per pupil.

In addition to these appropriations for operating costs, the State since 1961 has authorized \$30 million in capital funds for the construction and equipment of buildings such as have been erected here on this campus. All this is by way of emphasizing the fact that your State government is keenly conscious of the importance of community colleges in our educational scheme.

The Commission for the Expansion of Higher Education in Maryland (The Curlett Commission), in a report to me in June, 1962, defined the role of the community college, in our three-part structure of public higher education, as follows:

“As the third segment of the total system of public higher education in Maryland, community colleges should be located strategically throughout the State, to help assure that the first two years of higher education are available within the commuting distance for as many students as possible.”

“These two-year institutions, governed at the local level but with provision for adequate financial assistance by the State, have two central functions. They should prepare high school graduates for further education at four-year colleges and universities . . . and wherever feasible they, should furnish other students with a two-year terminal program in sub-professional and technical fields.”

The report made it clear that the students at these institutions should have a “collegiate” experience and not just an extension of their high school years. This “third segment” of the total system of public higher education in the State, as it is called by the Curlett Commission, has a vital role to play in the education of Maryland youth and the State, in cooperation with Baltimore City and the counties, is making a concerted effort to bring to fulfillment the purposes outlined in the report of this Commission.

We are here today to celebrate a major step forward in this phase of our program of public higher education. Baltimore Junior College, as I have suggested, pioneered the community college movement